

*Washington, DC* -- Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced he has helped secure \$1.95 million in federal grants to establish a New York Renewable Energy Cluster (NYREC) in Newburgh, New York. The federal funds will allow The Solar Energy Consortium (TSEC) to expand its industry-led clean energy manufacturing cluster into Orange County through a partnership with Orange County Community College (SUNY Orange) and Gateway to Entrepreneurial Tomorrows (GET). Hinchey helped establish TSEC in 2007, and wrote and called the Department of Commerce in support of TSEC's application for federal funding to establish a NYREC in Newburgh.

"This is going to create a lot of jobs for the City of Newburgh, and it is exactly the type of economic development I envisioned when I spearheaded the creation of TSEC in 2007," said Hinchey. "I strongly supported these programs in the federal budget, and I strongly supported TSEC's grant application. The City of Newburgh is a great city, which continues to struggle towards revitalization, and this new partnership between TSEC, SUNY Orange, and Gateway to Entrepreneurial Tomorrows, is going to help the City's revitalization through new economic development and the creation of green jobs. The program will help to provide expertise to new homegrown green energy businesses, and it will help educate and train local workers who can be employed by those businesses. This is outstanding news for Newburgh, and I know it will give a big boost to the region."

As part of the overall \$2 million package, three grants have been awarded. An \$800,000 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge Grant has been awarded to TSEC by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA). This funding will be used to establish cluster development mechanisms intended to become permanent features of NYREC's long-term development strategy. Activities will focus on business support services to start-ups, including market research, site analysis, and access to capital.

A \$1 million grant has been awarded to SUNY Orange by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA). This funding will be used to increase course offerings at participating schools and tailor them more precisely to renewable energy cluster needs, thereby enhancing their value as job-generating training. These courses will continue to be offered and expanded through tuition payments and Department of Labor funding.

A \$150,000 grant has been awarded to Gateway to Entrepreneurial Tomorrows (GET) by the Small Business Administration to specifically target underserved and disadvantaged residents in Newburgh and provide the following services: mentoring, business plan development,

export-readiness, technology commercialization, international and domestic marketing, accounting and legal business structures, internet commerce and employee management. Client referrals will be made to renewable energy industry experts who can vet business ideas for feasibility. Clients at appropriate stages of business development will be connected with venture capital groups and alternative financing entities, and receive assistance with applications for state and federal R&D funding including federal Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR).

Since helping to establish The Solar Energy Consortium in 2007, Hinchey has secured \$31 million for TSEC and its partner companies, creating hundreds of new jobs in the Hudson Valley. Over 600 jobs throughout the region have been created as a result.